

Subject National Budget Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
Date 09/20/2022

Agriculture, nature and food quality: *sustainable food, valuable nature and a vital agriculture.*

The plans of the Dutch government for 2023 for agriculture, nature and food quality focus on their mission of sustainable food, valuable nature and a vital agriculture.

Sustainable food: Good integrated food policy is vital for a sustainable food system, in which food is produced and consumed as sustainably as possible and as little food is wasted as possible. The government continues to support the animal sectors in the implementation of integral plans for sustainability. The newly formulated food policy addresses a **sustainable and healthy diet, buying sustainably produced food and reducing food waste**. The commitment focuses on halving waste, shifting consumption from animal to plant-based proteins, reducing total protein consumption, making the sustainability of the food supply transparent and increasing the sustainable food supply for consumers. Next to that the National Growth Fund further provides support for the development of cultured meat.

The **transition in agriculture requires that all links in the chain take responsibility** and contribute. The coalition agreement announces that chain parties will be held accountable for their responsibility in the transition to a more sustainable food system.

A total budget of € 11.7 million destined for the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) will partly be used for LNV meant for programmes that include: advice on (food) safety and **alternatives to animal testing**, implementation of the National Monitoring Network for the Effects of Manure Policy and various measurement networks and monitoring in the field of nitrogen.

Valuable nature: In 2023, the step towards the implementation of the **integral area-based approach** for the reduction of nitrogen is central. A total of € 2.85 billion has been made available to **strengthen and restore nature**. For the Netherlands, greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 must be at least 55% lower than emissions in 1990. It has been observed that there are disappointing forecasts. Additional measures are needed to meet the set targets. Therefore, options for **intensifying and expanding the package of at-source measures** are continuously being examined so that, if necessary, adjustments can be made within the current package of measures and the ambitions of the Rutte-IV government can be achieved. The policy approach will shift from stimulating and facilitating to more **steering and coercive**.

Vital agriculture: In 2023, € 60.4 million in subsidy budget has been reserved for manure policy. In the transition to sustainable agriculture through closing cycles, manure plays a crucial role. **Manure policy reform** contributes to improving the quality of ground and surface water and helps meet nitrogen and climate targets. Starting points of the future manure policy are a completely soil-bound dairy and cattle farming in 2032, removal and processing of all manure from non-soil-bound farms and an area-specific approach in areas where water quality goals are not met. In order to **reduce the use of artificial fertilizer**, the government is putting European efforts into a country-specific solution for the use of high-quality products based on animal manure.